

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 110367
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 /023 R

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DRAFTED BY:EB/ICD CPD:GAGOWEN III

APPROVED BY:EB/ICD/CPD:ALKOBLER

ARA/ECP:WBURSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 110367

FOLLOWING REPEAT SANTO DOMINGO 2188 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO GENEVA LONDON APR 27

QUOTE UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 2188

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, ETRD, EAGR, XM, DR

SUBJECT: OAS/CECON SESSION - U.S. STATEMENT ON SUGAR POLICY

1. US DEL (E. ALLAN WENDT) OPENED 4/26/78 AFTERNOON SESSION WITH GENERAL STATEMENT REGARDING U.S. SUGAR POLICY. STRESSING THE COMPLEXITY AND SENSITIVITY OF THE ISSUE, HE NOTED THAT DEPRESSED PRICES HAVE HAD A DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON PRODUCERS IN ALL COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THIS OAS MEETING. HE NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES, AS A MAJOR CONSUMER, IMPORTER AND PRODUCER OF SUGAR HAD A DIVERSITY OF INTERESTS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL WHICH IT NEEDED TO ADDRESS IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO THIS ISSUE. WE HAD SOUGHT SUCH SOLUTIONS THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT (ISA), WHICH REMAINS THE BASIS OF U.S. SUGAR POLICY. WE ARE NOW ACTIVELY WORKING FOR RATIFICATION OF THE ISA IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES. TNYALUFCQESS HAS NOT PROVEN EASY, BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT RATIFICATION CAN BE ACHIEVED BY JULY 1. THE IMPORTANT POINT TO KEEP IN MIND IS THAT WE REMAIN FULLY COMMITTED TO RATIFICATION AS WELL AS TIMELY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT'S PROVISIONS.

2. IN ORDER TO SATISFY VARIOUS CONCERNED ELEMENTS IN OUR BODY

POLITIC AND ASSURE CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE ISA, WE HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO DEVELOP PROPOSALS FOR BACKUP LEGISLATION IN CASE THE ISA DOES NOT PERFORM AS EXPECTED. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO ENSURE THAT SUCH LEGISLATION IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE ISA'S PROVISIONS AND DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF THE AGREEMENT. WE ARE STUDYING A VARIETY OF OPTIONS AND POLICY APPROACHES WITH RESPECT TO BACKUP LEGISLATION. NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED. OPTIONS MIGHT INVOLVE IMPORT FEES AND PERHAPS DIRECT PAYMENTS TO U.S. PRODUCERS OR PROCESSORS OR SOME FLEXIBLE COMBINATION OF FEES AND PAYMENTS. WE ARE AWARE OF THE SERIOUS CONCERN OF SUGAR EXPORTING COUNTRIES REGARDING FIXED FEES. WE ARE THEREFORE CONSIDERING A MECHANISM FOR DOWNWARD ADJUSTMENT OF FEES AS WORLD SUGAR PRICES RISE UNDER THE ISAJ WE ARE HOPEFUL SUCH A MECHANISM CAN BE ADOPTED.

3. RE ITC RECOMMENDATIONS: THE PRESIDENT IS NOT OBLIGED TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ITC. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR CONGRESSIONAL OVERRIDE. WE HAVE THE ITC REPORT, AND WILL CONSIDER ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, ALONG WITH OTHER POLICY OPTIONS, IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE ISA. IN ANY CASE, THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL NOT AFFECT U.S. DETERMINATION TO RATIFY THE ISA AND IMPLEMENT ITS PROVISIONS. AXELROD. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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